10. Anganwadi Workers/Helpers may be awarded maternity leave as per Punjab Government Women employees.

11. The vacant posts of supervisors may be filled as per seniority and decision of the Court.

12. The summer and winter vacations may be allowed in Anganwadi Centres as per other educational institutions.

13. The procedure to promote Anganwadi Helpers as Anganwadi Workers may be implemented.

14. Undue interference of the Panchayats and other local bodies in the name of monitoring of Anganwadi Centres may be stopped.

15. Arrangement of gas connection may be provided at AWCs for the preparation of Supplementary Nutrition.

Children on the footpaths

4147. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the report of United Nations about the children living on the footpaths in a large number of big metro cities and also in small towns of the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) whether the number of orphans in the country has increased during the last three years;

(d) whether Government proposes to simplify the adoption law, to facilitate adoption of orphans; and

(e) if so, by when Government is likely to reframe such laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Government is not aware of any recent report of United Nations about children living on footpaths in India. The Census data also does not have information on street children. However, it is known that a large number of children are living on streets in the country, UNICEF estimated 11 million street children in 1994.

(c) There is no Government data on number of orphans in the country.

(d) and (e) The legal adoption procedure of orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children is very organized and structured and only agencies recognized by the State Governments can place children in adoption both in-country and inter-country. Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) is the only nodal agency at national level for adoption matters and issues guidelines for adoption from time to time. The procedures governing in-country adoption and inter-country adoption have been provided under "Guidelines for In-country Adoption 2004 and Guidelines Adoption from India 2006", respectively. These guidelines are subject to regular review in order to make them more efficient and child friendly. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 along with Model Rules 2007 under this Act, also aims to provide a child friendly and simple adoption framework.